

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Eggs and Egg Products from Poultry, Game Birds, or Other Birds

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Introduction

The *Eggs and Egg Products from Poultry, Game Birds, and Other Birds* section covers eggs and egg products that are imported for both edible and inedible purposes, as follows:

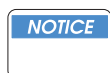
- ◆ Boiled eggs (hard-boiled eggs, salted eggs, pickled eggs)
- ◆ Eggs which are preserved, but uncooked (like hundred-year eggs and pedan eggs)
- ◆ Fresh, unfertilized eggs for breaking and pasteurization
- ◆ Fresh, unfertilized eggs for food
- ◆ Baluts (fertile eggs incubated 17 days)
- ◆ Inedible egg products (e.g., liquid yolks)
- ◆ Egg shells

Not covered in this section are the following:

- ◆ Egg-containing foods and products (such as baked goods, breaded products, dried soup mixes, drink mixes, egg protein shampoos, mayonnaise, pasta, salad dressings, and sauces)
- ◆ Eggs which are fertilized and ready for hatching, including commercial importations of uncooked baluts. Contact the nearest VS office for further action
- ◆ Eggs being imported for research; consider as embryos and refer to [Table 3-8-20](#)
- ◆ Egg cartons, crates, flats, or liners used as packing material (these are of concern because of possible contamination with blood, feathers, manure, or shells); regulate these products as

fomites under **Miscellaneous Products**. If found contaminated, refer to **Step 5: Take Action on Contaminants and Ticks** on page 2-2-11 under **Clearing Regulated Cargo**.

- ◆ Commercial importations of shell eggs, which are regulated by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Refer to **Appendix I** for a list of AMS regional offices



Some egg products are highly perishable. Therefore, expedite an importation when you are authorized to release it. If you cannot release the hold, allow the importer to apply dry ice or refrigerate the product.

When a VS permit authorizes the entry of eggs or egg products, match the following information on the shipping documents with that on the permit:

- ◆ Current date
- ◆ Description of the material
- ◆ Shipper
- ◆ Consignee
- ◆ Conditions spelled out on the permit

Follow **Table 3-6-1** as you match the permit with the shipping documents.

TABLE 3-6-1 Validate Importation Authorized Entry by VS Permit

If the shipping documents:	And the:	Then:
Match the permit		RELEASE or CONTROL as stated on the permit
Do not match the permit	Permit has expired	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-26) 3. SAFEGUARD the importation until you hear from VS, TTSPS
	Discrepancy is other than an expired permit	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action

Locator

When a VS permit does **not** accompany an importation of eggs or egg products, use **Table 3-6-2** to determine the appropriate regulatory action to take.

TABLE 3-6-2 Where to Find the Regulatory Action on Eggs and Egg Products Not Authorized by a VS Permit

If the importation is:	Then:
Inedible egg products (e.g. liquid yolks)	GO to Table 3-6-3
Whole, empty egg shells	GO to Table 3-6-4
Edible eggs and egg products	GO to Table 3-6-5
Eggs for breaking and pasteurization	GO to Table 3-6-6

Inedible Egg Products

Egg products such as liquid yolks imported for research, scientific, educational, or another inedible purpose require a VS permit authorizing their entry. Also, if the egg product is from an endangered or threatened bird, the importation may be subject to FWS regulations. Continue on to [Table 3-6-3](#).

TABLE 3-6-3 Regulatory Action on Inedible Egg Products

If the importation originated in:	Then:
Canada	RELEASE
A country other than Canada	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD ADVISE the importer of the hold, and that the importation requires a VS permit authorizing its entry PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including applying for a VS permit issued by VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-26)

Whole, Empty Egg Shells

TABLE 3-6-4 Regulatory Action on Whole, Empty Egg Shells

If the shells originated in a country:	And if the shells are:	And the shipment is:	And:	Then:
Affected with END	Ostrich ¹	Commercial	Appropriately certified ²	RELEASE
			Lacks the certification	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer provides the required documentation
		Not commercial	Clean and dry	RELEASE
			Not clean and dry	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Not ostrich	Commercial	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. ADVISE the importer of the HOLD and that the importation requires a VS permit authorizing its entry 3. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including applying for a VS permit issued by VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-26)
		Not commercial	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from END	→	→	Clean and dry	RELEASE
	→	→	Not clean and dry	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

1 Empty shells may be decorated, etched, natural, or painted.

2 Accompanied by a Veterinary Export Certificate or a statement signed by the producer or manufacturer with **either** one of the following statements:

- ◆ The ostrich eggshells were treated with heat at a minimum temperature of 176° F (80° C) for a minimum of 30 minutes
- ◆ The ostrich eggshells were treated with a disinfectant such as alcohol, bleach, Diachem, formaline, phenol, or Virkon® S

Edible Eggs and Egg Products

Commercial importations of edible eggs and egg products **not** accompanied by a VS permit authorizing their entry **must** be of Canadian origin for **unrestricted** entry or from the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa for restricted entry.

Use **Table 3-6-5** to determine the appropriate regulatory action to take for all shipments of edible eggs and egg products which are **not** accompanied by a permit that authorizes their entry.

Go to **Appendix A** for the **Guide to Entry Status of Animal Products in Passenger Baggage or Mail** when edible eggs and egg products are encountered in passenger baggage.

TABLE 3-6-5 Regulatory Action on Edible Eggs and Egg Products

If the importation originated in:	And the egg product is:	And:	Then:
Canada	_____	_____➡	RELEASE
Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa ¹	Accompanied by the appropriate certification	Properly packaged and labeled ²	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer presents the appropriate certification
	Not accompanied by the appropriate certification	_____➡	
Other than Canada or Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa	Baluts (eggs incubated for 14 to 17 days)	You confirm that the embryo is dead (for example, the baluts are cooked)	RELEASE
		You confirm that the embryo is alive	1. REGULATE as hatching eggs 2. GO to Live Animals and Related Material on page 3-8-1
	Fresh, unfertilized eggs	_____➡	GO to Table 3-6-6
	Hundred-year eggs (eggs or egg yolks preserved with ashes, lime, and salt)	Accompanied by a VS Permit	RETURN to Table 3-6-1
		Lacks a VS Permit	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-26)
	Preserved eggs ³ (eggs and egg yolks; for example, salted eggs)	Accompanied by the proper certification (see Figure 3-6-1)	RELEASE
		Lacks the proper certification	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer obtains the proper certification 2. ALLOW the importer to apply dry ice or refrigerate the eggs
	Thoroughly cooked, hardboiled eggs (may be preserved in vinegar)	You confirm that the whites are set and the yolks are not runny ⁴	RELEASE
		You confirm that the whites are not set or the yolks are runny ⁵	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including the option to apply for a VS permit (see page 2-4-26)
	Kinds of eggs and egg products other than those listed in the five cells above	_____➡	

- 1 Veterinary Services has determined that the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa are of negligible risk for exotic Newcastle disease (END).
- 2 Eggs **must** be packed in containers and labeled as follows:
 - ◆ Labeling of shipping and retail (consumer packaged) containers of eggs for importation **must** comply with 7CFR§57.955
 - ◆ Eggs **must** be imported in cases marked with the identity of the flock and show the region of origin
- 3 If dyed red and from the Philippines, these eggs are usually boiled. If they are, then regulate as boiled eggs and **not** salted eggs.
- 4 If the eggs are still in the shells, crack a representative sample to verify the thoroughness of cooking.
- 5 The cracked eggs have **not** been thoroughly cooked.

Eggs (**other than** hatching eggs) from poultry, game birds, or other birds may be imported only in accordance with 9CFR 94.6 if they: are laid by poultry, game birds, or other birds that were raised in any region **except** Canada; are imported from any region **except** Canada; or are moved into or through any region except Canada at any time before importation or during shipment to the United States.

The eggs may be imported if they are accompanied by a certificate signed by a salaried veterinarian of the national government of the region of origin and:

(i) The eggs are imported in cases marked with the identity of the flock of origin and sealed with the seal of the national government of the region of origin.

(ii) The certificate accompanying the eggs is presented to an authorized inspector when the eggs reach the port of arrival in the United States.

(iii) The certificate identifies the flock of origin and shows the region of origin, the port of embarkation, the port of arrival, the name and address of the exporter and importer, the total number of eggs, and cases of eggs, shipped with the certificate, and the date the certificate was signed.

(iv) The certificate states that the eggs qualify for importation in accordance with 9CFR 94.6.

(v) No more than 90 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin inspected the flock of origin and found no evidence of communicable diseases of poultry.

(vi) The eggs were washed, to remove foreign material from the surface of the shells, and sanitized on the premises of origin with a hypochlorite solution of from 100 ppm to 200 ppm available chlorine.

(vii) The eggs were packed on the premises of origin in previously unused cases.

(viii) Before leaving the premises of origin, the cases in which the eggs were packed were sealed with a seal of the national government of the region of origin by the salaried veterinarian who signed the certificate.

(ix) And, if the eggs were laid in any region **other than** Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man), Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland:

(a) No END occurred on the premises of origin or on adjoining premises during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(b) There is no evidence that the flock of origin was exposed to END during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(c) The eggs are from a flock of origin found free of END in one of the following ways:

(1) Sentinel birds were present in the flock of origin for at least 60 days before the certificate was signed. There was at least 1 sentinel bird per 1,000 poultry with at least 30 sentinel birds per house. The sentinel birds remained free of clinical and immunological evidence of END as demonstrated by negative hemagglutination inhibition tests conducted on blood samples drawn at 10-day intervals by a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin. The tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests by the national government of that region; OR (continued)

FIGURE 3-6-1 Example of a Foreign Official Veterinary Certificate Issued for Preserved Eggs (the Proper Certification for Eggs from Other Than Canada)

(2) Once every week, beginning at least 60 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin collected carcasses of all poultry that died during that week, and the carcasses were examined for END using the embryonically egg inoculation technique. Once a month, beginning at least 60 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin collected tracheal and cloacal swabs from **not** less than 10 percent of the poultry in the flock, and the swabs were tested for END. All examinations and tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests and examinations by the national government of that region. All results were negative for END.

(x) And, if the eggs were laid in any region **other than** Canada:

(a) No salmonellosis caused by *S. enteritidis* (SE) occurred on the premises of origin or on adjoining premises during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(b) There is no evidence that the flock of origin was exposed to SE during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(c) The eggs are from a flock of origin found free of SE as follows:

(1) At least 60 days before the certificate was signed, a veterinary medical officer of the national government of the region of origin took a blood specimen from a representative sample of at least 300 poultry in each house, or, if any house contained fewer than 300 poultry, from all the poultry in that house. The blood specimens were tested for SE with *Salmonella pullorum* or *S. enteritidis* antigen using a tube or plate test. The tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests by the national government of the region.

(2) Beginning the week after the flock was tested and found negative as required in paragraph (d)(1)(x)(C)(1) of 9CFR 94.6, and continuing once a week thereafter, a salaried veterinarian of the national government of the region of origin collected 25 carcasses, or 10 percent of the carcasses, whichever was greater, of all the poultry that died in each house during the previous week. The carcasses were bacteriologically examined and found negative for SE. The examinations were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the examinations by the national government of the region.

(3) After the blood specimens were drawn as required in paragraph (d)(1)(x) (C)(1) of 9CFR 94.6, no poultry were added to the flock of origin until a blood specimen from each was tested for SE with *Salmonella pullorum* or *S. enteritidis* antigen using a plate or tube test, and the specimen was found negative. The tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests by the national government of the region.

FIGURE 3-6-1 Example of a Foreign Official Veterinary Certificate Issued for Preserved Eggs (the Proper Certification for Eggs from Other Than Canada) (continued)

Shipments of table eggs from the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa to the United States **must** be accompanied by a certificate issued by Mexican animal health authorities that contains the following information and certification statements:

- ◆ Certificate number on both first and second pages of certification
- ◆ Country/territory exporting product
- ◆ City where issued and date issued
- ◆ Name and address of farm(s) of origin of the eggs
- ◆ Name and address of exporter
- ◆ Name and address of importer
- ◆ Quality or description of eggs
- ◆ Number of cases and total quantity
- ◆ Identification marks on containers
- ◆ Method of transportation
- ◆ Port of export
- ◆ Port of arrival
- ◆ Certification statement listed below

I, the undersigned accredited veterinarian, certify that:

- ◆ No more than 90 days before the certificate was signed, a Mexican accredited veterinarian inspected the flock of origin and found no evidence of communicable diseases of poultry
 - ◆ The eggs originate from *[Sonora or Sinaloa]* region of Mexico which is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 94.22 as eligible for the importation of poultry meat and other poultry products
 - ◆ The eggs were washed to remove foreign material from the surface of the shells and sanitized on the premises of origin with a hypochlorite solution containing 100-200 ppm of available chlorine
 - ◆ The eggs have been graded to the grade stated on the cases and packed on the premises of origin in new packing and packaging material
 - ◆ The eggs were stored after packaging and transported under refrigeration at an ambient temperature of no greater than 45°F (7.2°C)
 - ◆ The eggs were transported directly to the United States without transiting regions considered by the U.S. as affected with Exotic Newcastle disease
- OR**
- ◆ The shipment of eggs was sealed at the premises of origin using a seal number *[seal number]*

Signature of official veterinarian
Firma del veterinario oficial

Date
Fecha

FIGURE 3-6-2 Statements Required to be Included in Certificate Issued by Animal Health Authorities in Mexico for Shipment of Table Eggs from Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa

Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs

TABLE 3-6-6 Regulatory Action on Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs

If the eggs are for:	And the importation is:	Then:
Breaking and pasteurization	Consigned to an approved establishment for shell eggs (see Appendix E)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEAL the eggs in their shipping container using a numbered seal 2. AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78. Make sure the seal numbers are on the VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form) 3. REFER the importer to FSIS to issue FSIS Form 5200-8, Import Request Egg Products (shell eggs for breaking are also regulated by FSIS)
	Not consigned to an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE importer with the appropriate options including requesting consignment to an approved establishment (see Table 2-2-11)
Food	Accompanied by the proper certification (see Figure 3-6-1)	RELEASE
	Lacking the proper certification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE importer with the appropriate options including requesting that the consignment be shipped to an approved establishment (see Table 2-2-11)

